



Anthropological Survey of India

NEW LETTER

April - June, 2013





Prof. Kamal K. Misra, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India deliberating during the Valedictory Session of the Orientation Course. Prof. Barun Mukhopadhyay of the Indian Statistical Institute is to the left of the Director while Dr. D. N. Pandey, Head of Office is on the right

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



It is my privilege to report through this Newsletter, the highlights of Anthropological Survey of India's activities during the period, April to June, 2013, to our esteemed readers and well-wishers. As a premier Anthropological research organization of this vast and diverse country, our research activities notwithstanding, we have successfully ventured into the area of massive outreach programmes. To begin with, we organized a Health Camp, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Planning of the Government of Odisha, in the tribal dominated Adasipada Panchayat of Kandhamal District. General health check-up, determination of nutritional status of the pre-school as well as adult population, screening of sickle cell and other abnormal hemoglobins were the objectives of our Health Camps and to make people aware about their health profile. Our scientists, including biological anthropologists, psychologists and biochemists conducted the Camp with the help of District Hospital doctors. The idea was primarily to make use of our expertise in community genetics to make people aware of their health and nutritional status. With equal zest, colleagues at our North East Regional Centre, Shillong, organized a similar Health Camp at St. Joseph's Secondary School, Laitkor with the participation of the local tribal population. On getting the news of neo-natal deaths among the tribal communities

of Attappadi, Kerala, a team of our scientists from the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore immediately rushed to the most affected villages and prepared a ground for a series of Health Camps, in collaboration with the local PHCs and P.S.G. Medical College, Coimbatore. I congratulate all my colleagues involved in this wonderful experiment to use science for the public good.

The Head Office of the Survey in Kolkata and all our Regional Centers observed the International Museum Day in their respective Central and Zonal Museums by involving the local public and school students to make them aware of the importance of museums in the protection and promotion of our rich cultural heritage. Similarly, the World Environment Day was celebrated in all our Centers by plantation of fruit-bearing trees and making the public aware of the importance of traditional sacred groves. We wish to involve more and more people and school children in all our activities in future, so that science can move from laboratories to people living in the far-flung hamlets of six lakh and odd villages of our country.

If science is confined to the laboratory, it can only cater to a very negligible part of the humanity, whereas its diffusion into the community, particularly in the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) like ours, would certainly make a difference and benefit a larger section of the society. We are committed to take Anthropology to people and seek your advice and encouragement in our endeavour.

Professor Kamal K. Misra
Director

RESEARCH UPDATE

Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development

Most research personnel of the Anthropological Survey of India are now engaged in the completion of the first phase of the 12th Five Year Plan Project, 'Bio-cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development'. Separate teams of researchers have been constituted for conducting fieldwork in different villages throughout India and the supervisor for each team has been requested to submit the report after completion of fieldwork. The Survey organised an Orientation Course on the Biological Anthropological aspects of the 'Village Study' at Salt Lake, Kolkata from 16th to 22nd May. The Orientation course included lectures on 'Biological Demography', 'Nutritional Aspects and the Anthropometric Measurements', 'Analysis and Report Writing', 'Social-Cultural Anthropology',

Ecology, Psychology, Ethics and Statistics' etc. Newly recruited Research Associates (Physical) from all Regional Centres and the Research Associates (Physical) of the Head Office and a Field Station have attended the course. In addition to the researchers from the Survey, a few faculty members were drawn from outside the An.S.I. as well.

DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations

A team of research personnel went on tour to collect blood samples and data from the four subgroups of Jaunsari and a Bhotia subgroup of Uttarakhand.

Growth and Development of Children in North East India

A group of researchers completed the tour to Aradonga village of West Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya under the Project

Growth and Development of Children in North East India.

Visual Anthropology

In connection with the programme of making a documentary under the Nationwide Visual Documentation Project, 'Pastoralism in India' in collaboration with the Bappa Ray Productions, an An.S.I. official conducted fieldwork in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.

Review

A Review Committee Meeting was held at the Head Office on 9th & 10th April in the presence of all Heads of Office and some senior officers of Head Office to review the progress of the projects under the Cultural Anthropology Division and also to prepare an action plan for 2013-2014. Based on resolutions, action has already been initiated for the fulfilment of the Survey's action plan.



A village scenario, Ghodapathad, Odisha

EVENTS



Inauguration of the Photo Exhibition "Island cultures of India", a collaborative effort of the An.S.I. and the IGRMS, by Shri G. N. Th. Dhas, Secretary, IAS (Tribal Welfare), Andaman & Nicobar Administration. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director is on the right, while Dr. M. Sasi Kumar, Head of Office of the ANRC is to the left of Shri Dhas

Regional & Local Museums

Prof Kamal K. Misra, the Director of the Anthropological Survey of India and the IGRMS attended an Expert Committee Meeting held at CSL Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi on 29.04.2013 for 'Setting up, Promotion & Strengthening of Regional & Local Museums' during the financial year, 2013-2014.

Life, Livelihood Strategies and Technology among the Hunter-Gatherers

The Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair of the Survey organised the conclusive national seminar of Diamond Jubilee of the Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, 'Life, Livelihood Strategies and Technology among the Hunter-Gatherers' at Port Blair on 6th & 7th May. Prof. Kamal K. Misra, Director of the Survey and other scholars, including dignitaries participated in the Seminar. Twenty five research papers were presented and discussed. A Photo Exhibition "Island Cultures of India" was also organized at the Regional Centre, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS).

Health Camp, Adasipada, Odisha

Anthropological Survey of India in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Planning, Kandhamal district, Odisha has organized a health check-up and awareness camp for an assessment of nutritional status of pre-school children and adult population during 7th to 11th June. In addition, sickle cell and other abnormal haemoglobins were screened among the pre-marital boys and girls of the Kandha tribes of Adasipada Panchayat of Kandhamal district, Odisha by a multidisciplinary team comprising Physical/Cultural Anthropology, Psychology and Biochemistry from the An.S.I. and medical professionals from the District Hospital, Kandhamal, Odisha under the Tribal Sub-Plan programme. An interactive programme was also organized between the tribal healers/medicinemen, professionals from AYUSH, local doctors and scientists from the Survey in Adasipada, Kandhamal on 8th June 2013, attended by local Sarpanches, intellectuals and villagers.

A cultural programme of Folk Dance of Kandha tribes was also organized in the Town Hall, Phulbani on the evening of 10th June, which was inaugurated by the Guest of Honour Mr. Misra, Additional District Magistrate, Kandhamal.

Under the health check-up cum screening programme, more than 250 individuals were clinically examined; 657 individuals were measured for the assessment of nutritional status/obesity/under-nutrition etc; about 300 adult males and females were examined for their blood sugar level to assess prevalence of diabetes, blood pressure to assess the state of hypertension etc. Blood samples of 209 boys and girls (pre-marital age group) among the Kandha tribes were collected for screening sickle cell/thalassaemia and other haemoglobinopathies, in view of the area being high risk for sickle cell disease. Preliminary analysis indicates that about six per cent were sickle cell and four per cent were thalassaemia carriers in the studied villages.



Health awareness camp at Adasipada, Odisha



During the Health Awareness and Screening Camp, Odisha

Health Awareness-cum-Screening Camp

A Health Awareness-cum-Screening and a blood sample collection Camp was organised in the Laitkor village, on 12th and 13th June in the campus of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Laitkor by the North East Regional Centre, Shillong and the Camps were attended by tribal individuals.

Visit to Attappadi and adjoining tribal areas

News of 'neo-natal deaths among the tribal communities in Attappadi' prompted a field visit to Attappadi and other tribal areas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, by a team headed by the Head of Office, Dr C. R. Sathyaranayanan of the Southern Regional Centre, on an initiative from Prof K. K. Misra, Director of the Survey, to get further details and to propose a plan of action for the amelioration of the situation, if it so warrants. After consultation with the concerned it has been decided to hold Health check-up and awareness camps in three areas in as many days in Attappadi, Elachivazhi and Valparai with the help of the PHCs, involving the P.S.G. Medical College, Coimbatore with the participation

of Swami Vivekananda Mission Hospital and Attappadi ITDP at the earliest, latest by August.

International Museum Day-2013

The International Museum Day was observed in the Head Office, all Regional

Centers and the Sub-Regional Center in a befitting manner by inaugurating exhibitions and especially by inviting the tribal elders, villagers, children, students of different schools etc. Visitors were taken around the Museums explaining different panels, holding drawing competitions, quiz programmes and distribution of prizes, Certificates etc.

The Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur has organized a Seminar on the ICOM proposed theme Museum (Memory +



School children participating in the drawing competition

Creativity) = Social Change and in addition, the Zonal Anthropological Museum, Jagdalpur organized a three day exhibition on the theme "Change among the Crafts of Bastar". Different media



International Museum Day in the ZAM, SRC, Mysore



*Prize distribution to a child painter
on the Day of ICOM*

professionals have also participated and gave the events a widespread coverage.

Zonal Anthropological Museum of the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore observed the International Museum Day with a week long programme from 18th to 24th May. As a part of the celebration, ZAM observed the day with the tribal people of Kodagu on 19th May at Madikeri, Kodagu district, Karnataka. In the programme, Malaikudi, Jenu Kuruba, and Yerava presented their craft demonstrations and performed a cultural programme. Local media highlighted the programme in various Newspapers. On the occasion, 400 students of various schools, colleges, save and except the local people living around the Zonal Museum visited the museum. Documentary films produced by the An.S.I. were screened on the occasion to make visitors aware of the role of museums for the development of society.

The International Museum Day was celebrated on 20th May in a unique way at the WRC, Udaipur. One hundred and fifty children from about six schools were taken around the galleries of the Zonal Anthropological Museum and were explained of different panels of the human evolution, and apprised the cultural diversity of different communities of western India. Teachers and some parents have also attended the function and spent the whole day engaged in various activities of the campus and had a deep appreciation of the ZAM. Students and teachers actively participated in



Tribal children on the World Environment Day, WRC, Udaipur

discussions on the Museums and their importance. Media has given a wide coverage of different events.

World Environment Day

World Environment Day was observed in Head Office, all Regional Centers and the Sub-Regional Center in an appropriate manner.

The Western Regional Centre, Udaipur invited adults and children from Mina, Gameti and Bhil tribal villages of the interior areas. Fruit giving trees were planted in the An.S.I. campus. All members participated in a rally holding

banners and other display material with slogans for the protection of environment. In the afternoon, traditional Healers (*guni*) delivered lectures on health, disease & treatment using herbal medicine, available in the vicinity or that can be cultivated. A drawing and quiz competition was organised for children on the topics related to environment.

The Sub-Regional Center, Jagdalpur planted more than 350 fruit giving trees in villages like Potananr, Kohopal and Tandpal. In addition, the An.S.I. distributed tree saplings to villagers in the presence of village leaders, Sarpanch,



Worshipping Mati (a part of environment), for better agricultural crop by Dhurwa

Sachiv and others. On the occasion, a number of villagers have participated and supported the drive for a successful forestation. Dhurwa community members performed Guar and Gurgal dances. Dhurwa people have also planted saplings in the premises of the Zonal Anthropological Museum, Jagdalpur.

The World Environment Day was observed in the NERC, Shillong and arranged a slide show on the "Sacred Groves of Meghalaya".

The Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Portblair received a Certificate of appreciation from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for participation in the World Environment Day on the fifth of June.

Altitude and Human Biology of the Monpa

Dr. Dipak Kumar Adak extended academic expertise as a Co-Investigator of the ICMR funded project "Altitude and Human Biology of the Monpas" (IRIS ID: 2010-07150) in the Department of Anthropology, Cotton College, Guwahati, on a recent visit.

Record Management

Dr Ratna Dhar attended a workshop on 'Records Management' on 16th & 17th May in the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

Budget Control and Maintenance of Accounts

Anthropological Survey of India organised a workshop-cum-training programme 'Budget Control and Maintenance of Accounts' at the Head Office, Kolkata from 9th to 11th May. Officials from all Regional and the Sub-Regional Centre/s and the Head Office attended the workshop.

Editing and Publication

During the quarter, two volumes each on



Planting saplings in the premises of the An.S.I., WRC, Udaipur

'Syncretism in India: Multi-Disciplinary Approach' and 'Indian Tribes in Transition' were edited for publication, while the research papers received for the symposium, "Intervention on Traditional Political System" organized by the Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur have been finalized for an edited volume and is being prepared for the publication.

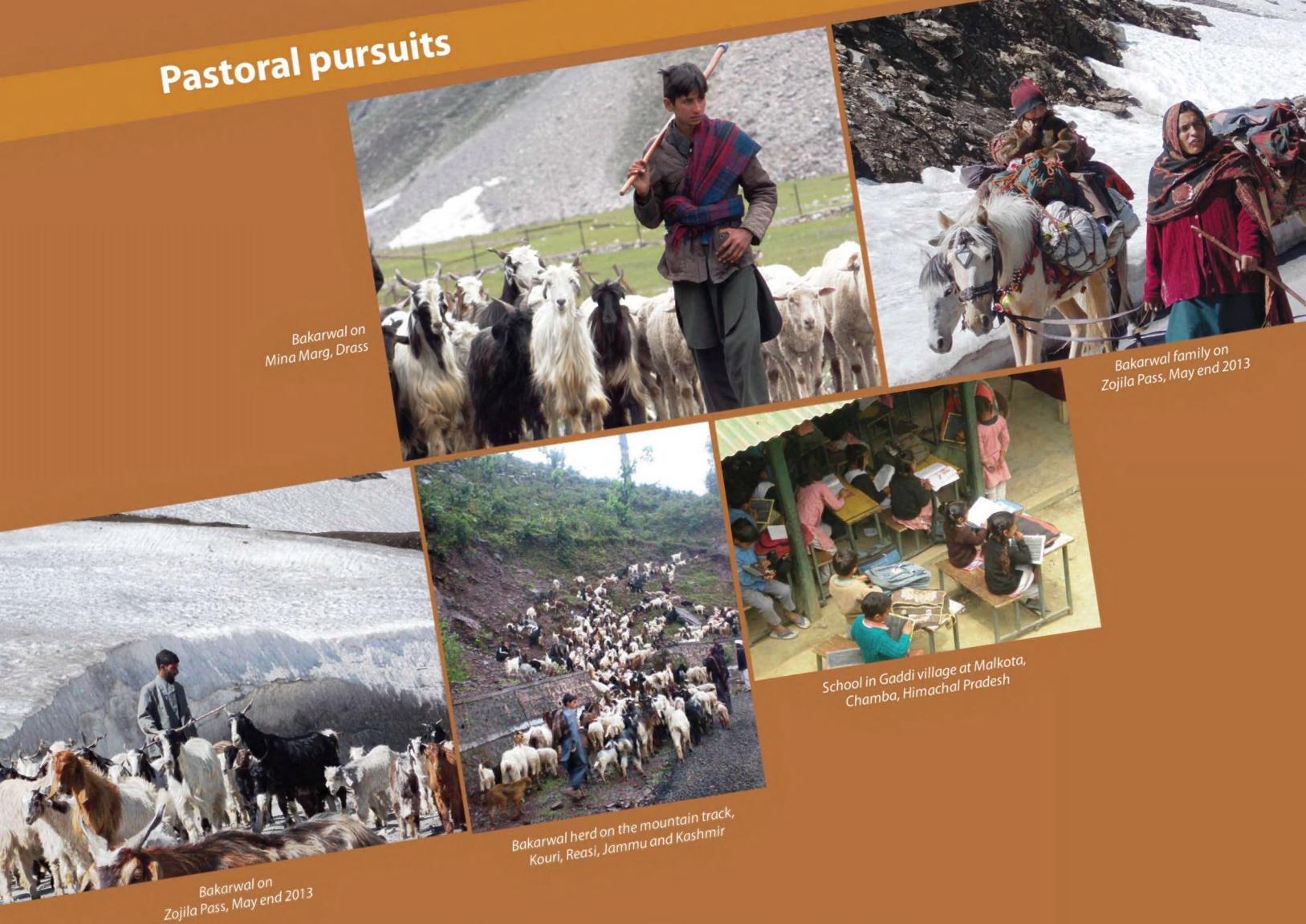
Superannuation

Dr Vinod Kaul, S.A. (April); Dr Sudasnhu Gangopadhyay, R.A., Dr (Mrs) G. R. Laksmi, R.A. and Shri V. J. Bommanwar, Librarian Grade-II (May); Shri Amal Chandra Roy, Ethnographic Collector and Shri Rajendra Kumar Singh, MTS (June) have superannuated from active Government employment.



Certificate of Appreciation

Pastoral pursuits



Front Cover: Bakarwal mother with her children in a base camp, Mina Marg, Drass

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